Hismaic

Hismaic is a variety of the Ancient North Arabian script and the language most commonly expressed in it. The Hismaic script may have been used to write Safaitic dialects of Old Arabic, but the language of most inscriptions differs from Safaitic in a few important respects, meriting its classification as a separate dialect or language. Hismaic inscriptions are attested in the Ḥismā region of Northwest Arabia, dating to the centuries around and immediately following the start of the Common Era.

Hismaic	
Region	Hisma
Language family	Afro-Asiatic ▪ Semitic ▪ Central ▪ Arabic ▪ Old Arabic ▪ **Hismaic**
Writing system	Old North Arabian script
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	–
Glottolog	`hism1236 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/hism1236)`[1]

Contents

Characteristics
Phonology
Grammar
References

Characteristics

Phonology

There are clear instances of *d* being used for /ḏ/ in the variant spellings of the divine name Ḏū l-S^{2}arā as *ds^{2}r* or *ds^{2}ry* – as against classical *ḏs^{2}r* or *ḏs^{2}ry*.

The spelling *ʿbdmk* for *ʿbdmlk* suggests an interchange of *n* for *l* (with unvocalised *n* assimilated to the following *k*), similar to that found in Nabataean where the name of the kings named Malichos occurs as both *mlkw* and *mnkw* and the compound as both *ʿbdmlkw* and *ʿbdmnkw*.[2]

Location of the Ḥismā region (shaded red) in Northwest Arabia.

Grammar

Perhaps the most salient distinction between Safaitic and Hismaic is the attestation of the definite articles *h-*, *hn-*, *ʾ-*, and *ʾl-* in the former. A prefixed definite article is not attested in Hismaic. Nevertheless, Hismaic seems to attest a suffixed *-ʾ* on nouns and *hn* in personal names. The use of the morpheme *h-* as a demonstrative is attested.[3]

References

1. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Hismaic" (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/hism1236). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.

2. http://krc.orient.ox.ac.uk/resources/ociana/publications/early_north_arabian_hismaic.pdf
3. Al-Jallad, A. (2015). *An Outline of the Grammar of the Safaitic Inscriptions*. Brill.

Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Hismaic&oldid=914443746"

This page was last edited on 7 September 2019, at 14:17 (UTC).

Text is available under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License; additional terms may apply. By using this site, you agree to the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy. Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization.